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Message Text

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62
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /135 W
---------- 108326
R 181600Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1834
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
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AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: ETUC--GERMAN VIEWS

REF: ECBRUSSELS 2199

1. SUMMARY. DGB PLANS TO CONTINUE FOLLOWING ITS POLICY OF OPPOSING AFFILIATION OF ITALIAN CGIL AND FRENCH CGT WITH THE ETUC AND WILL ATTEMPT TO DELAY ETUC APPROVAL OF CGIL AFFILIATION DURING THE MAY ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND CONGRESS. ACCORDING TO DGB SOURCES, AGREEMENT ON VICTOR FEATHER'S SUCCESSOR AS ETUC PRESIDENT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED. END SUMMARY

2. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE, DGB SOURCES SAY THAT THE DGB CONTINUES TO OPPOSE CGIL AND CGT AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC. BEFORE EACH ETUC MEETING, THE TACTICAL SITUATION IS REVIEWED AND THE DGB DELEGATION IS INSTRUCTED BY THE DGB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. RECENTLY, THE DGB HAS POSED A LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR THE ETUC REVIEW OF THE CGIL APPLICATION. THE DGB HOPES THAT THESE QUESTIONS WILL POSE SUFFICIENTLY DIFFICULT POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR THE COMMUNIST CGIL TO DELAY ANY ETUC ACTION ON ITS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AT ITS FORTHCOMING MAY CONGRESS.

3. ON THE ISSUE OF WHO WILL BE THE NEXT ETUC PRESIDENT, DGB SOURCES SAY THAT THERE WAS A "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" WHEN VICTOR FEATHER (TUC) WAS ELECTED AS ETUC PRESIDENT PROVIDING TH AT DGB PRESIDENT HEINZ OSKAR VETTER WOULD SUCCEED FEATHER. HOWEVER, SCANDINAVIAN AFFILIATES, EXCEPTING DENMARK, STARTED MANEUVERING TO ELECT BELGIAN FGTB LEADER DEBUNNE. THE DGB DOES NOT
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SUPPORT DEBUNNE BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN A PROPONENT OF COMMUNIST ITALIAN CGIL ADMISSION TO THE ETUC. RECENTLY THE DGB MOVED TO OFFER ITS SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTION OF THE DANISH LO LEADER NIELSEN. COMMENTING ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL MANEUVERING, DGB SOURCES CLAIM THE DGB IS MORE INTERESTED IN ETUC POLICY THAN IN THE ETUC PRESIDENCY. FOR THIS REASON, THE DGB WILL CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON APPROVAL OF AN ETUC ACTION PLAN AT THE ETUC

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CONGRESS NEXT MONTH.

4. COMMENT. THE DGB HAS BEEN CONSISTENT IN TRYINQ TO MAINTAIN AN ETUC POLICY OF NO ADMISSION FOR COMMUNIST UNIONS BUT SO FAR THE DGB HAS SECURED ONLY MINORITY SUPPORT FOR THIS POSITION. IF THE CGIL AFFILIATION ISSUE IS PRESSED TO A DECISION AT THE ETUC CONGRESS, PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE DGB WOULD NOT THREATEN TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ETUC IN VIEW OF THE OVERALL EURO-PEAN LABOR-POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE DGB DESIRE NOT TO BE ISOLATED "LIKE THE AFL-CIO" AS A KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE SAID. END COMMENT
HILLENBRAND

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